GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4430
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2001
R & D ON QUAKES
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Are we due for 8-plus Himalayan tremors` appearing in the `Times of India` dated February 6, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Dr. Bilhan and Vinod Gaur the Scientists at Bangalore have reported in current science that they were hampered in their R&D on quakes on trivial grounds by Army authorities;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to enquire into the matter and ascertain the reality in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Himalayan belt has witnessed 4 earthquakes of magnitude 8 and above in the past 104 years and such earthquake may occur in future also. However, at present no scientific technique available anywhere in the world, which can predict the earthquakes with a reasonable degree of accuracy in space, time and magnitude.

(b), (c), (d), (e) & (f): The authors referred to in current science, have not alleged that their work was hampered by authorities including Army, but merely pleaded that scientific data generated by various agencies be made more freely available for analysis by scientists. This situation is gradually improving with the spread of modern tools of data archiving and retrieval.